

Minutes of **September 29, 2008**

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, September 29, 2008 7p.m.
H. BERNARD MONAHAN MEMORIAL ROOM
TOWN HALL, 242 UNION STREET
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. **Keno License Application- Rokies Bar and Grill**

The BOS choose not to request a hearing to oppose the Keno License application by Rokies Bar and Grill.

3. **Town Accountant Resignation**

Mr. Chiocca notified the BOS and public of the resignation of Eric Hart as Town Accountant effective October 17, 2008. Mr Chiocca informed the BOS he had already placed an AD on the MMA web site and was moving forward on two fronts.

First to place the ads and seek a permanent replacement for Mr. Hart, and second to transition through the search process with a temp during the interim.

Mr. Chiocca indicated he had also spoken with the auditor Rob Lynch to help during the interim. Rob Lynch offered to review job specifications and advise through the process.

Mr. Simpson requested Mr. Chiocca conduct an exit interview of Mr. Hart. Mr. Chiocca should ask Mr. Hart what Rockland can do better and how did he come to be hired by Rockland? How did he get recruited here?

4. **Glacial Energy Presentation**

The Energy Committee had requested a joint meeting to review a proposal by Glacial Energy regarding the purchase of power by Rockland as the current contract is coming to an end. Glacial Energy made a presentation to the two Boards.

Allan R Chiocca
Town Administrator

James F. Simpson, Chairman
Board of Selectmen

Note: Open Meetings are recorded by local cable WRPS and are considered the official record of BOS Open Meetings.

Carol Perilli Chairman, Energy Committee introduced Representatives of Glacial Energy Matthew Ready and Joel Finlay Region Director.

Glacial Energy is a third party supplier of energy. Rockland is currently with Constellation. They offer a “different concept”.

Mr. Finlay said most customers like fixed prices allowing budget certainty but believes they are very expensive. Glacial wants to come up with a budget plan and go with an index product so we don't have to pay for premiums within a fixed product. You won't pay for risk or trying to predict the market especially now the market is coming down since July.

He feels index while the market is coming down and that they do a couple things to save money. Electronic bills, advanced billing system, one bill once a month paid electronically.

Ms. Perilli mentioned as Eric Hart had pointed out in his emails that electronic is not permitted in the Municipal system warrants with copies of the bill must be attached paid by check. Glacial will check with billing dept. No automatic deduction.

Mr. Chiocca asked how rates are set? Mr. Finlay said they parallel the wholesale markets We can monitor by watching the wholesale markets at NEpool.com. Price moves with market.

Mr. Chiocca asked if we pay actual usage or estimated usage with adjustments later? Mr. Finlay said he can do it both ways after Nat Grid or Nstar tells them our usage they bill us or we could estimate until it “trues up”. Something to work out in the billing.

Mr. Zupkofska asked if they would always be less? Mr. Finlay responded they follow the market price, but that the other utilities cannot overcharge or take losses they are regulated. No consumption variance penalty.

Mr. Simpson asked if the rate was for a 24 hour period? Mr Finlay responded its blended at the end of the month from 15 minute interval at NEPool.

Mr. Chiocca asked if you are 10-15% lower than Nat Grid just on supply? Mr. Finlay said yes only on supply not delivery a separate bill for supply only. Supply is 40% to 60% of energy bill.

Superintendent Retchless asked what have the trends been the last 3 or 4 years? Mr. Finlay responded prices have gone up steadily. Follow-up Superintendent Retchless –so why wouldn't we lock at the current rate. Mr. Finlay responded that on a 12 month basis index will outperform fixed every time.

Mr. Finlay said No contract necessary, we can go month to month. No penalty to leave.

Mr. Finlay said all or just some accounts are acceptable as we wish. All meters are acceptable large accounts or small.